

coloration, a description of the one would apply almost equally well to the other.

The measurements of a young bird of *G. macrodactyla* less than a week old, and consequently unable to fly, are:—Bill 1·5, wing 2·5, bare portion of tibia ·5, tarsus 1·7 inch.

Before concluding my remarks on this species it seems desirable to say a few words on the synonymy, since the bird has hitherto been usually known as *Gallinago bernieri* of Pucheran, who named it after the first collector who brought specimens of the bird to Europe. Pucheran's description was published in the 'Revue de Zoologie,' 1845; but some years prior to this, namely between 1832 and 1841, Bonaparte's 'Iconografia della Fauna Italica' appeared in parts (unpaged). In one of these parts, in the course of a notice of *Gallinago brehmi* (a variety of the common European Snipe), of which the part in question contains a coloured figure, a review of the various species of *Gallinago* known to the author is given, in the course of which two new species are described:—one from Madagascar, named by Bonaparte *macrodactyla*; the other from the Cape, named by him *nigripennis*, and subsequently by Rüppell (1845) *æquatorialis*. His description of *macrodactyla*, which applies to the present species, was founded upon a specimen in the Paris Museum, which had been brought by Dr. Bernier from Madagascar, and was in all probability the same type from which Pucheran subsequently described and named his *Gallinago bernieri*. It is evident, therefore, that Bonaparte's name for this species, *Gallinago macrodactyla*, has precedence.

I have seen no specimen of this bird from any part of Africa; and, so far as at present known, it appears to be confined entirely to Madagascar.

#### 4. Description of a new Species of Bird of the Genus *Tephras*.

By E. P. RAMSAY, F.L.S., C.M.Z.S.

[Received March 14, 1882.]

The species which I propose to describe is based on a specimen from a collection made along the south coast of New Guinea and at the Aru Islands by the late S. White, Esq., of South Australia. I propose to call it

*TEPHRAS WHITEI*, sp. nov.

All the upper surface dull brown washed with olive-yellow, tinged with brown on the head; brighter on the rump and upper tail-coverts, and on the outer margins of the webs of the wing- and tail-feathers; the wings and tail brown above and below; axillaries and under wing-coverts whitish, inner margin of the webs of the quills towards the base whitish; shafts of the wing and tail-feathers below white, above brown; all the under surface of the body, chin, margins of shoulders below, and the under tail-coverts citron-yellow, deeper

in tint on the chest, breast, and under tail-coverts; bill brown, whitish on the lower margin and on the under mandible; no ring round the eye; ear-coverts and sides of the face like the head.

Length of skin 3·7 inches, wing 2·5, tail 1·9, tarsus 0·7; bill from forehead 0·5, from anterior margin of nasal groove 0·3, from gape 0·6.

The flank-plumes are rather elongated and somewhat decomposed.  
*Hab.* Arn Islands?

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April 18, 1882.

Prof. Flower, LL.D., F.R.S., President, in the Chair.

The following report on the additions to the Society's Menagerie during the month of March 1882 was read by the Secretary:—

The total number of registered additions to the Society's Menagerie during the month of March 1882 was 54, of which 26 were by presentation, 16 by purchase, 3 by birth, and 9 were received on deposit. The total number of departures during the same period, by death and removals, was 81.

The most noticeable addition during the month was:—

A Radiated Fruit-Cuckoo (*Carpococcyx radiatus*) from Sumatra, purchased March 31st.

The gait and actions of this remarkable Ground-Cuckoo remind one more of a Gallinaceous bird or a Gallinule than of any of its arboreal relatives of the same family. The form is quite new to the Society's Collection.

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The following papers were read:—

1. On the Mutual Affinities of the Animals composing the Order EDENTATA. By WILLIAM HENRY FLOWER, LL.D., F.R.S., Pres. Zool. Soc., &c.

[Received April 4, 1882.]

The name assigned to this order by Cuvier is often objected to as inappropriate, as, though some of its members are edentulous, others have very numerous teeth; and the Linnean name *Bruta* is occasionally revived by modern authors. But that term is quite as objectionable, especially as the group to which Linneus applied it is by no means equivalent to the order as now understood, but contained all the animals then known which are comprised in the modern orders *Proboscidea*, *Sirenia*, and *Edentata*, together with the Walrus, one of the *Carnivora*. If retained at all, it should rather belong to the *Proboscidea*, as *Elephas* stands first in the list of genera of *Bruta* in the 'Systema Naturæ,' and was probably in the mind of Linnæus when he assigned the name to the group.